

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

IN THE MATTER OF:

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Reg. No.: 2014-10448
Issue No(s): 3001
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: December 18, 2013
County: Wayne (35)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Zainab Baydoun

HEARING DECISION

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on December 18, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████ ██████████, Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case based on excess assets?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. In connection with a redetermination, Claimant's eligibility to receive FAP benefits was reviewed.
3. On October 15, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action informing her that effective November 1, 2013, her FAP case would be closed on the basis that her assets exceeded the limit. (Exhibit 2)
4. On October 29, 2013, Claimant submitted a hearing request disputing the Department's actions.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 271.1 to 285.5. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

Additionally, assets must be considered in determining eligibility for FAP. BEM 400 (October 2013), p. 1. An asset must be available to be countable. Available means that someone in the asset group has the legal right to use or dispose of the asset. BEM 400, p. 9. Asset eligibility exists when the asset group's countable assets are less than, or equal to, the applicable asset limit at least one day during the month being tested. BEM 400, p. 3. For FAP, the asset limit is \$5,000. BEM 400, p.5.

Assets are defined as cash, any other personal property and real property. BEM 400, p.1. Money in checking, savings, and money market accounts are counted as cash and applied towards the FAP asset limit. BEM 400, p.14. For FAP cases, the Department is to use the lowest balance in the month when determining asset eligibility. BEM 400, p. 14.


In this case, Claimant completed a redetermination and submitted a copy of her bank statement from her money market account, which indicated that the account had an ending balance of [REDACTED]. (Exhibit 1). Based on the information provided with the redetermination and the additional bank statements, the Department determined that Claimant's assets exceeded the [REDACTED] FAP asset limit and initiated the closure of Claimant's FAP case effective November 1, 2013. (Exhibit 2).

At the hearing, Claimant confirmed that she submitted the bank statement to the Department with her redetermination and that the balance of her money market account was [REDACTED]. Therefore, the Department properly determined that Claimant's assets exceeded the [REDACTED] FAP asset limit.

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FAP case on the basis that the value of her countable assets exceeded the asset limit.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.



Zainab Baydoun
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 19, 2013

Date Mailed: December 19, 2013

NOTICE OF APPEAL: The claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt of the Decision and Order or, if a timely Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. MAHS will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request (60 days for FAP cases).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;
- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;
- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;
- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The Department, AHR or the claimant must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date the hearing decision is mailed.

The written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

2014-10448/ZB

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

ZB/tm

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]